USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LPD 41)
Dock Landing Ship
Homeport: Little Creek, Virginia
www.whidbey-island.navy.mil

USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) conducts prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy. Designed, built and manned to carry out "maneuver warfare" and "over-the-horizon" amphibious assaults as part of an amphibious task group, *Whidbey Island* can carry four Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCACs) in its floodable well and serves as the LCAC control ship during an amphibious assault. The ship also provides a boat haven with docking, repair and fueling services for landing craft and boats, making *Whidbey Island* ideally suited to support our Navy's foremost strike asset, the U.S. Marine Corps.

The *Whidbey Island*-class introduced significant improvements with updated communications, combat systems, 20- and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair shops, two helicopter landing spots, complete medical and dental facilities, automated computer-based logistics support and an impressive engineering plant that gives *Whidbey Island* an excellent capability for self-sufficient, sustained operations.

Equally effective in peacetime and in wartime, *Whidbey Island* carries out a variety of humanitarian missions, such as evacuations and disaster relief.

Whidbey Island also supports special warfare, fleet support, maritime security, and ocean surveillance operations, as well as its primary missions of amphibious, mobility, command and control and anti-air warfare.

USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) is the first ship in a class designed specifically to interface with the Navy's newest amphibious assault landing craft, the LCAC. *Whidbey Island* assisted in the operational and developmental testing of the LCAC from July to September 1985, and again in May and July 1986.

In August 1986, *Whidbey Island* embarked on her first major operation, participating in the NATO exercise Northern Wedding/ Bold Guard 86. *Whidbey Island*'s first major deployment was to the Mediterranean in January 1987, where the ship took part in seven amphibious-landing exercises and carried out duties as Presidential Support ship for the World Economic Summit held in Venice, Italy, May 1987.

Immediately following the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, *Whidbey Island* departed Little Creek for its seventh deployment. In December 2001, *Whidbey Island* responded to the terrorist attacks by participating in Operation Enduring Freedom.

On February 17, 2004, *Whidbey Island* deployed with the WASP Expeditionary Strike Group to the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility. Following the insurgent attack on *USS Firebolt* in the North Arabian Gulf (NAG), *Whidbey Island* was directed to proceed immediately to the North Arabian Gulf to assist in Maritime Security Operations, protecting two Iraqi oil platforms, known as KAAOT and ABOT. Upon completion of her second seven-month deployment in three years, *Whidbey Island* entered an extended dry-dock maintenance period in 2005.

Following her maintenance and training cycles, W*hidbey Island* set sail on June 6, 2006 as part of the IWO JIMA Expeditionary

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL
Length - 609 feet 7 inches
Beam (Maximum)- 84 feet
Speed: 20+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 20feet
Well Deck: 440 feet long, 50 feet wide, floodable to 10 feet aft, 6 feet forward
Helicopter Deck: 2 spots, 212 feet long, 83 feet wide
Complement– 30 Officers/290 Enlisted
Landing Force: 15 Officers, 400 Enlisted

ENGINEERING
Propulsion: 4 Colt Industries, 16-cylinder diesel engines capable of developing 34,000 combined shaft horsepower 2 five blade controllable pitch props
Electrical:
Services:

SENSORS

WEAPONS
2 MK 31 Rolling Air Frame Missile Systems
2 Phalanx Close-In-Weapons System
AN/SLQ-25A Nixie Towed Torpedo Countermeasures System
6 MK 36 Decoy Launching System for Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Chaff
2 MK 38 25mm Optical/IR-Sighted Machine Guns
6 .50 cal Machine Guns

Keel Laid: August 4, 1981   **Christened:** June 10,1983   **Commissioned:** February 9, 1985